

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

Traffic Committee Meeting
September 19, 2017
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: DC Mark Farrall, Lt. Dennis Aniunas, Andrew Haines, Tim Filasky, Marvin Howard, Tom Parkins, Dave Gula

Guests: Polly Sierer, Mayor
Al Schweizer, Newark landlord
Ed Smith, Newark resident
James Nigg, Newark resident

1. Request to eliminate parking on the west side of Center Street.

This request was discussed several years prior and the committee decided to table the item until the new construction was completed on Center Street. This project nears completion and has been brought before the committee for further discussion.

Upon reviewing Center Street parking, there is the potential for six metered parking spaces.

The accident data was collected for the last five years. A total of 18 crashes were reported. DC Farrall said the majority of collisions were backing and side swipe accidents that may be attributable to the narrow street.

In 2015, during the initial request a survey was mailed to the impacted residents. A total of 13 letters were mailed, 8 unfavorable responses and 3 favorable responses were received for eliminating parking on the west side of Center Street. All of the favorable responses were received from Linden Street. All unfavorable responses were received from Center Street homes that have been demolished and no longer exist.

Mr. Filasky said Public Works was under the impression that parking would be eliminated in the development plan, therefore it would be unnecessary to go back to city council. Mr. Filasky said the new apartment building has a parking garage for tenants.

Mayor Sierer said this project was approved by city council and the decision was based upon removing parking on the west side of Center Street. Mayor Sierer has received numerous complaints from constituents that it is difficult to get down the road safely due to the narrow width of the roadway with parked cars on both sides of the street. The road is currently designated as a special use permit and may need to go back to city council to have this removed and to add metered parking.

Mr. Parkins asked what the residency is in this location. Mr. Filasky said there will be approximately 90-100 residents. Mr. Filasky said there is a fire lane along the sides and the front of the building.

DC Farrall said from the police department perspective Center Street is very narrow and believe this to be a factor in the collision history. Mr. Filasky said there is a traffic calming effect by having parking on both sides of the street to slow traffic.

Mayor Sierer suggested looking into if a fire truck could successfully make the turn on New Street at Center Street. Mr. Haines said that corner has remained the same even since prior to this project.

Mr. Gula said if the parking spaces didn't exist during the construction phase was there someone that wants the parking to remain. DC Farrall said all of the homes that existed previously were demolished during the construction phase. Mr. Howard said prior to the building being built, the parking was consistently full. Mr. Howard said there is not enough parking in this area for residents with special residential parking permits. Mr. Haines said it would be beneficial for the committee to assess parking needs in certain areas. Mr. Haines said he would like to see a layer added to GIS for help in determining parking needs.

Mr. Howard said the parking division has received many calls for New Street to be designated as a special residential parking district.

Mr. Haines would recommend tabling this item until next month address New and Center Street on restrictions and/or amendments. Mr. Filasky said they could install temporary no parking signs until a decision is made.

Mr. Haines said a suggestion is to add special residential parking district on New Street and remove special residential parking district on Center Street. This would expand controlled parking and would be an enhancement to the district for those properly parking in the area.

Motion by Mr. Haines, seconded by Mr. Gula, to table Center Street amendment for next month to add potential action on New Street and add temporary no parking signs if a Certificate of Occupancy is issued for The Lofts on Center Street.

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Vote: 7 to 0

2. Request to eliminate parking on the east side of Annabelle Street.

This request was received by Mr. Schweizer. Mr. Schweizer said he own 22 and 24 Annabelle Street that is a duplex that was purchased and renovated this summer. Mr. Schweizer also mentioned he has provided off street parking for tenants. He also owns 28 Annabelle Street that was condemned and will be demolished and rebuilt with the same footprint. Mr. Schweizer would like to propose no parking in front of his homes and 16 Annabelle Street.

Mr. Schweizer said Mr. Prettyman owns 12, 14 and 16 Annabelle Street.

DC Farrall said there are approximately nine spaces on the east side of the street. DC Farrall said there have been four accidents within the last five years. Three collisions were side swipe accidents and one improper backing from a driveway.

DC Farrall asked if there is a requirement as to the number of parking spaces that each house must have. Mr. Haines said there is a requirement for the number of parking spaces for off street parking unless a “grandfather” status exists.

Mr. Howard asked what the main reason is for eliminating parking. Mr. Schweizer said he feels it is a safety issue due to congestion and that its is difficult for his tenants to get into the driveway. Mr. Howard asked if it would help to have the driveways marked out. Mr. Schweizer said this would help. DC Farrall supported Mr. Howard’s suggestion first before considering eliminating parking on the east side of Annabelle Street.

Motion by Mr. Gula, seconded by Mr. Haines, to table this item and notify property owners for the entire street that we are considering eliminating parking on the east side of Annabelle Street.

Motion Passed.

Vote: 5 to 2

DC Farrall would like to obtain feedback from Ms. Gray on the number of properties affected and their requirements for parking. Mr. Filasky will review code regarding the distance of sidewalk and the taper of the driveway.

3. Request to permit parallel parking on Blair Court.

DC Farrall said in speaking with Mr. Coleman this request would be part of the construction plans submitted to Public Works for a new curb cut. All new curb cuts require approval by the city manager. This item was removed from Traffic Committee agenda for further review.

4. Request to eliminate the special residential parking on New London Road from Andrew's Way to approximately 385' north of the intersection.

Mr. Nigg said Andrew's Way is the exit from Northgate Commons onto New London Road. There is a line of sight issue resulting from parked cars on New London Road. Mr. Nigg said in August of this year there were seven vehicles parked on New London Road. Mr. Nigg said he spoke with the neighbors and everyone agrees it is dangerous.

Mr. Smith has lived in Northgate Commons for thirty years. Mr. Smith said several years ago, the council representative at the time arranged a meeting with DelDOT to discuss installing signs restricting parking near the entrance. As a result of the meeting, DelDOT installed two signs one on the south side near the entrance to the development and one on the north side.

Mr. Filasky reviewed the decision point and used the sight triangle in determining the distance of 385' north of the intersection for placement.

Mr. Haines asked if would make sense to remove all parking from Andrew's Way to Rite Aid. DC Farrall asked if all the parking is removed would the homes need to be noticed in the portion that it isn't a safety concern. DC Farrall suggested removing the parking as requested and if an issue arises consider removing remainder of the parking to Rite Aid.

Motion by Mr. Haines, seconded by Mr. Gula, to reduce the special residential parking district on New London Road from Andrew's Way to approximately 385' north of the intersection.

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Vote: 7 to 0

DC Farrall spoke with Mr. Filasky and this area will be posted temporarily as "No Parking Anytime" in the interim before city council approval to correct the safety issue.

5. Request to install a blue accented crosswalk on S. Main Street at Veterans Drive.

DC Farrall said this item was requested by several members of the police department. Other communities have placed a thin blue line down the center of the road in between the yellow lines to support their local law enforcement.

Mr. Coleman notified the police department that DelDOT has approved hashmarks in between the crosswalk keys. DC Farrall shared a video of what the City of Milton has done to support their police department.

DC Farrall said if the committee supports the recommendation we will advise Mr. Coleman to proceed.

Motion by Mr. Gula, seconded by Mr. Aniunas, to install the blue accented lines in between the crosswalk keys on S. Main Street at Veterans Drive.

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Vote: 7 to 0

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mark Farrall, Chairman

Any supporting documents pertaining to this meeting will be held on file at the police department.